

ABSTRACT

Process and plant for handling and stacking a plurality of thermoformed containers or lids, which comprises the following sequence of phases:

- obtaining during a thermoforming phase mouldings of lids and containers, having at least three stacking protrusions or spacers, all having the same space arrangement in all the thermoformed products of the same moulding, at least one of the stacking protrusions or spacers of a same thermoformed object being set out in a non specular symmetric way with respect to at least a centre line of the respective container or lid and at a distance from the same centre line of the respective container or lid different from that of the others,
- 10 - arranging one or a moulding of said containers or lids in at least one support template to keep them in order according to the spatial arrangement that they had during the thermoforming phase,
- turning through a predetermined angle every other object or moulding of objects either containers or lids before or during their transfer to a stacking station, and
- 15 stacking mouldings of thermoformed containers or lids with alternate mouldings turned through said predetermined angle, so as to obtain stacks of containers or lids, where the stacking protrusions of a container or lid are offset with respect to those of the next container or lid in each stack.

20 FIG. 4